

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are amended.

Claim 6 is cancelled.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tagawa et al. (US 2002/004538; hereinafter "Tagawa") in view of Dean et al (6,771,323; hereinafter "Dean").

Regarding the amended claim 1, neither Tagawa nor Dean, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or renders foreseeable a controlling unit that controls an informing of the occurrence of the event and a superposition of the output of the reproducing unit and the output of the informing unit in a reproducing procedure selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures based on meta information extracted from the contents so that the superposition is changed gradually. Tagawa does not disclose that the reproducing procedure is selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures based on meta information extracted from the contents, as

admitted by the Examiner in the Office action. The Office action states that Dean teaches the reproducing procedure is selected based on meta information extracted from the contents, since Dean discusses metadata for defining the output function. However, Dean merely discloses that image data 91 is adjusted in accordance with metadata 93 (Dean; column 4, lines 54-55). There is no disclosure in Dean that the metadata 93 is a basis for selecting a reproducing procedure from a plurality of reproducing procedures in which the controlling unit controls an informing of the occurrence of the event and a superposition of the output of the reproducing unit and the output of the informing unit. Accordingly, the combination of Tagawa and Dean does not meet all of the limitations of claim 1. Therefore, the asserted combination of Tagawa and Dean does not render claim 1 obvious. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Regarding the amended claim 5, neither Tagawa nor Dean, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or renders foreseeable controlling a superposition of an output of a reproducing unit and a output of an informing unit and an informing of an occurrence of an event in a reproducing procedure selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures based on meta information of the contents so that the superposition is changed gradually. Tagawa does not disclose that the reproducing procedure is selected from a plurality of reproducing procedures based on meta information extracted from the contents, as admitted by the Examiner in the Office action. There is no disclosure in Dean that the metadata 93 is a basis for selecting a reproducing procedure from a plurality of reproducing procedures for controlling an informing of the occurrence of the event and a superposition of the output of the reproducing unit and the output of the informing unit. Accordingly, the combination of Tagawa and Dean does not meet

all of the limitations of claim 5. Therefore, the asserted combination of Tagawa and Dean does not render claim 5 obvious. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claim 5 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 9-10 which are dependent from claim 1 should also be allowable for at least the same reason.

Claims 7-8 and 11-12 which are dependent from claim 5 should also be allowable for at least the same reason.


In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-41245.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 5, 2009